United Nations A/58/757–S/2004/278

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2004
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 5 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The competent Lebanese authorities earlier notified the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of the Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon at the time of their occurrence, as follows:

At 0535 hours on 12 March 2004, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a number of rounds from medium-sized guns towards the water.

Between 0245 and 0300 hours on 14 March 2004, an Israeli military boat fired two flare bombs over the water.

Between 0720 and 1050 hours on 21 March 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Jubayl (Byblos) and then circled over Beirut and Damur, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1100 and 1305 hours on 21 March 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea at medium altitude off the Zahrani region and then circled over Sidon and Nabatiyah, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 2030 and 0030 hours on 21 March 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea at medium altitude off Tyre and then circled over Beirut and Tyre, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1105 and 1235 hours on 22 March 2004, six Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, four of them over Tripoli, where they circled over Tripoli itself and the Bekaa region, and two of them towards the south and the Khaldah region.

Between 1340 and 1430 hours on 22 March 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Aytrun region, where it circled over the region of the south.

Between 1740 and 2100 hours on 22 March 2004, Israeli military aircraft carried out a raid over Kafr Shuba-Kafr Hammam- Shaba`-Rashayya and Habariyah, dropping 21 air-to-ground missiles, destroying the high-tension line between Kafr Shuba and Kafr Hammam.

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Between 1810 and 2100 hours on 22 March 2004, Israeli enemy forces positioned in the occupied Shaba` Farms fired 155-mm artillery shells towards the Shaba`-Kafr Shuba and Habariyah, shattering windows and causing cracks in some of the houses in Kafr Shuba.

Between 1850 and 2045 hours on 22 March 2004, Israeli military aircraft overflew the occupied Shaba` Farms, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1950 and 2000 hours on 22 March 2004, two Israeli military aircraft overflew Kafr Killa, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1950 and 2025 hours on 22 March 2004, two Israeli military aircraft overflew Kafr Killa, where they circled over the south.

Between 0600 and 0730 hours on 23 March 2004, an Israeli military aircraft overflew the occupied Shaba` Farms, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0915 and 0935 hours on 23 March 2004, Israeli military aircraft overflew the occupied Shaba` Farms, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1725 and 1815 hours on 23 March 2004, Israeli military aircraft overflew the villages surrounding Tyre, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1730 and 1900 hours on 23 March 2004, two Israeli helicopters overflew Lebanese territory towards Naqurah.

Between 1915 and 2115 hours on 23 March 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Hawla, Shaqra and the Saluqi valley, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 2150 and 2220 hours on 23 March 2004, two Israeli helicopters fired four air-to-ground missiles on the Saluqi valley, killing two Palestinian citizens and injuring another.

Between 1855 and 2215 hours on 24 March 2004, an Israeli military aircraft overflew the sea off Tyre and then circled over Tyre and Beirut.

Between 1930 and 0145 hours on 26 March 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Tyre and then circled over Tyre and Beirut.

These grave violations are part of a continuous series of provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace and territory in contravention of the principles of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, such that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has repeatedly called for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter Israel from such grave acts, which constitute a threat to international peace and security. Israel must assume full responsibility for the repercussions and consequences of these acts.

In drawing your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative